

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Through these FAQs the Board has attempted to address many of the concerns and questions received by the administrative staff. The administrative staff is not able to respond individually to each and every concern and request received.

PLEASE check these FAQs often for updates

October 27, 2017

1. I cannot possibly complete the additional required coursework on or before January 1, 2018, will I lose my license or be restricted in my practice, services I provide? Does the training requirement apply to me if I am licensed as an Associate Professional Counselor, or an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist?

O.C.G.A. 43-10A-16(b) states “... All persons licensed under this chapter who have not already completed as of January 1, 2017, sufficient training, experience, or classes related to diagnosing as part of their licensure requirements as required by the board shall complete such curriculum no later than January 1, 2018.”

2. Questions:

(a) As an LCSW, assuming I have, or I receive the appropriate training to do so, what psychological tests or examinations can I now administer and interpret that are covered by the “Testing and Assessment” rule?

(b) If there is not a list of tests, how can I evaluate whether or not I am allowed by law or rule to administer and interpret a particular psychological test as an LCSW?

Please refer both the Psychology Board’s Practice Act, O.C.G.A. § 43-39, and the professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapist practice Act, O.C.G.A. § 43-10A. Both are available on the respective Board’s websites.

3. Do I need to submit to the Board my transcripts or verifications of an organized training program pursuant to rule section 135-12-.02(2) to the Board by January 1, 2018?

No, however, you should keep the transcript or verification of completion of an organized training program available.

NOTE: The Board nor the administrative staff is able to verify to any third party whether or not your coursework obtained during your master’s degree program meets, or does not meet, the training requirement of this rule.

4. Do I need to have these semester hours or training program hours to renew my license on or before September 30, 2018?

Yes, if you intend to use the hours obtained from the training program toward continuing education hours required for the next cycle. Please refer to 135-12-.02(4).

5. Can I request an exemption from this training requirement, or file a Petition for a Rule Waiver or variance?

No, you cannot request the waiver or variance of a Georgia law.

6. If I have been licensed for over ten years by the Georgia Board as a Professional Counselor, Clinical Social Worker or Marriage and Family Therapist, do I still need to take the required semesters or organized training program hours required by this rule?

The law provides that persons licensed under Title 43, Chapter 10A with at least 10 years of experience as a professional counselor, clinical social worker, or marriage and family therapist working with people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, or substance abuse and in good standing with the Board shall be exempt from the requirements of this portion of the law. See O.C.G.A. 43-10A-16(b). (Emphasis added).

7. I have been licensed, in good standing, over ten years prior to April 26, 2017, but not all my ten years have been as a Georgia Board licensee. I have been licensed in good standing in another state(s) with my total number of years combined of licensure in good standing prior to April 26, 2017 meeting or exceeding ten years. Am I exempt from this training requirement?

As set forth above, the law provides that persons licensed under Title 43, Chapter 10A with at least 10 years of experience as a professional counselor, clinical social worker, or marriage and family therapist working with people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, or substance abuse and in good standing with the Board shall be exempt from the requirements of this portion of the law. See O.C.G.A. 43-10A-16(b). (Emphasis added).

8. I was initially licensed as an Associate Professional Counselor, then licensed as a Professional Counselor. I've been a Licensed Professional Counselor for 9 ½ years, does my time as a Licensed Associate Professional Counselor count toward this 10 year exemption?

No, only time as a licensed Professional Counselor is applicable to the 10 year exemption.

9. I am a Licensed Master Social Worker – do the training requirements of this rule apply to me?

Yes.

10. I am a LMSW, does the ten (10) year exemption apply to me?

No.

11. I have been practicing in mental health for less than 10 years post licensure and my graduate program course in psychopathology/diagnosis was only two semester credit hours (30 clock hours). The new rule requires 3 semester credit hours (45 clock hours) or 45 CEU hours of psychopathology/diagnosis related continuing education from an approved provider. What do I do?

Anyone licensed under this chapter with less than ten years of experience as a professional counselor, clinical social worker, or marriage and family therapist working with people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, or substance abuse must complete the required three semester hour (45 clock hours) or 45 hours of psychopathology/diagnosis related training.

Your two semester psychopathology/diagnosis related course will count as meeting a part (30 clock hours) of the requirement if the course is from an accredited university. You will need to take an additional minimum 1 semester credit hour course (15 clock hours) from an accredited university or 15 continuing education hours in psychopathology/diagnosis related coursework from an approved provider.

Persons licensed under this chapter with at least ten years of experience as a professional counselor, clinical social worker, or marriage and family therapist working with people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, or substance abuse and in good standing with the board shall be exempt from the requirements of this subsection.